

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Germantown, MD
May 13, 2003

The Chairperson, Pat Finn, U.S. Department of Energy – Headquarters (EH-53), called the meeting of the DOE Construction Safety Advisory committee (CSAC) to order. Mr. Finn welcomed attendees and introductions were made. Mr. Finn explained that the meeting was being satellite teleconferenced to other DOE locations; Savannah River Operations Office, Oakland Area Office, INEEL, Kansas City Area Office, Chicago Operations Office and the Hanford Site.

1. Mr. Finn discussed the following current events that have occurred since the last meeting.

a. Glen Florczak, DOE-EH retired on June 2nd, 2003. Glen supported both the CSAC and the DOE Hoisting and Rigging Technical Advisory Committee and will be missed.

b. DOE-EH is in the process of reorganization and the final organizational structure and staffing has not yet been finalized.

c. ANSI A10, the national consensus standards committee for Construction and Demolition Safety (upon which Mr. Finn serves as DOE representative), will no longer have the National Safety Council serving as the committee secretariat. At this time, the ANSI A10 committee is evaluating other organizations that may be willing to serve in this capacity.

d. Congress, in its recent reauthorization of Price-Anderson Act, has decided to extend the Act's original scope to include enforcement of occupational safety and health standards. DOE-EH and GC are currently working on rulemaking to support this change.

2. Mr. Stew Burkhammer, Chief of Construction Services for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), discussed recent OSHA construction safety initiatives.

a. Construction fatalities increased last year by 7% according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. At various venues around the country, OSHA leaders have been emphasizing this fact during their talks to industry groups and employers while encouraging improved performance in this area.

b. OSHA has implemented a new Enhanced Enforcement Policy directed at poor performing contractors (those with fines over \$100,000 dollars and with cases classified as significant). This policy will ensure that poor performing contractors are visited as many times as necessary by OSHA compliance officers to ensure the contractors' safety performance improves.

c. OSHA is providing enhanced training for OSHA compliance officers and giving them “real world” on the job site training experience. Through a partnership with the Iron Workers Union, the National Steel Erectors Association, and the Associated Builders and Contractors, OSHA is provided enhanced training in construction safety to its compliance officers. Its first effort in this area is a four-day “hands-on” class addressing OSHA’s new Steel Erection standard. In the future, similar efforts are being considered for Scaffolds, Highway Work Zones, and Crane Safety.

d. A draft standard for Confined Space in construction has been completed and is being reviewed internally to ensure compatibility with “real world” conditions at construction jobsites.

e. Comments received by OSHA concerning draft revisions to the standard addressing Hearing Conservation in construction are currently under review. No release date for the completed standard has been set.

f. OSHA has recently adopted the latest version of the Federal Highway Administration’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

g. The regulatory text for Silica in construction is under review by OSHA’s Directorate of Standards and Guidance. OSHA is also preparing to have a panel review the standard with regard to its impact upon small business.

h. Negotiated Rulemaking for a revised new Cranes and Derricks standard for the construction industry started recently. Unlike the existing standard in this area, the revised standard will not cover helicopters, conveyors and personnel hoists. After completion, OSHA will consider whether the resulting standard may also be ultimately used in General Industry, OSHA’s Alliances, Partnerships and Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

- 1.) OSHA has entered into several alliances lately. These broadly written cooperative agreements try to leverage resources in three key areas; training and education, outreach and communication, and promoting the value of safety and health. These alliances are open to everyone (business, labor, trade unions, universities and government agencies) and have very few formal requirements other than a commitment to deliver the mutually agreed upon deliverables. Such alliances currently exist between OSHA and the Hispanic Contractors of America, the Washington Group, and the National Association of Home Builders.
- 2.) OSHA’s other cooperative relationship, the partnership, is extended to employers, employees, labor or other stakeholders to promote reduction of injuries and eliminate hazards in the construction industry. Partnerships focus on elimination of hazards; they mandate training and require stakeholders to have formalized health and safety management programs. In return, the stakeholder receives focused inspections rather than general inspections, maximum penalty reduction, and priority in the use of OSHA consultative services and training. Currently,

OSHA has two national partnerships with the Associated General Contractors (47 chapters and about 62 contractors) and the Associated Builders and Contractors (23 chapters and about 72 contractors).

- 3.) OSHA has several recognition programs for construction safety performance. Their VPP program is not a very good fit for the construction industry in that the evaluation process can take longer than the duration of many construction projects. Accordingly, VPP recognition in construction is generally limited to construction contractors working on existing VPP sites who have chosen to adhere to the site's overall program. In order to address this limitation, OSHA developed the Construction Safety Excellence program that was in place for several major contractors in a few locations. OSHA is now in the process of revising this program for wider application.

3. Mr. Ken Corcoran, Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc. gave a presentation on sub-surface radar detection of hidden utilities and concrete reinforcement. Ground penetrating radar is currently being used successfully at several DOE sites. Further information is available from Mr. Corcoran at corcorank@geophysical.com.

4. Ms. Jackie Rogers, EH-51, led a discussion addressing legislation and ongoing rulemaking to enable enforcement of Occupational Safety and Health standards in a manner similar to enforcement of nuclear safety under the Price Anderson Act.

5. Mr. Bryan Drennan, Sandia National Laboratory, gave a presentation on the progress of the Microsystems and Engineering Sciences Application (MESA) project. The MESA project team has done a great deal of work in the development of contract provisions to ensure that subcontractors understand and are held accountable for the safety and health of their workers at the MESA project. Bryan distributed a CD of his presentation to those in attendance. Further information concerning the construction safety program at MESA is available from Bryan at cbdrenn@sandia.gov

6. Mr. Skip Searfoss, Parallax, Inc., presented a draft report prepared for the DOE Office of Performance Assessment and Analysis. The draft, entitled "*Review of Lockout/Tagout Incidents for Q1 2003*" was intended to provide information useful in the development and implementation of lockout/tagout programs at DOE field sites. Further information on this draft report is available from Skip Searfoss at: gsearfoss@parallaxnet.com

7. Mr. Ralph Fevig, DOE Sandia Site Office, gave a presentation on the Type B Accident Investigation of an incident at Sandia National Laboratory involving the collapse of a chain fall support during the installation of a stairway. The Accident Investigation Report is available at: <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/csa/aip/>

8. After a brief period of open discussion, the meeting was adjourned.